

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 to 58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) A system for remote access of environments ~~an environment~~ comprising:

an Internet browser ~~connectable to an extranet~~;

an extranet located external to said environments ~~environment~~ and accessible via said Internet browser;

a plurality of connection gateways, each of said environments having located therein a different one or more of said connection gateways; and

at least one communications server located in said extranet and adapted to interconnect on-demand with said ~~one of a series of~~ connection gateways ~~located in predetermined environments; and a connection gateway located in said environment;~~

wherein responsive to ~~[[upon]]~~ accessing a predetermined address by said Internet browser on said extranet, in which accessing said Internet browser provides authorization data, one of said at least one communications server subsequently:

determines which one of said environments said authorization data indicates authority to access; and

creates a new communications session between said communications server and ~~connection to a predetermined~~ one of said connection gateways, which is located in said environment, to control or monitor ~~[[the]]~~ operation of at least one service in said environment, with said connection gateway subsequently providing access to information contained within the environment directly to said Internet browser.

60. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59 wherein the connection gateway located in said environment is adapted to serve, in said communications session, a user interface for the control of the operation of the at least one service in accordance with operation instructions input via said Internet browser and the ~~[[or]]~~ monitoring of the operation of the at least one service in said environment.

61. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 60 wherein said service includes monitoring and controlling ~~is adapted to at least one of monitor and control~~, one or more devices interconnected with said connection gateway.

Claim 62. (Canceled).

63. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 61, wherein at least one of said devices is a monitoring device located within said environment.

64. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said communications ~~communication~~ server utilizes a telecommunications network to interconnect with said connection gateway.

65. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein authentication to access said extranet is required only once per Internet browser session.

66. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said extranet is a private network overlaid on ~~forms part of~~ the Internet and said communications server is located within ~~[[the]]~~ a local telephone call radius of the environment, thus providing lowest cost PSTN access from or to the environment.

67. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein additional interface pages accessible via said browser are provided on said extranet for each user of said system, said pages adaptable to provide details of ~~[[the]]~~ a current status of ~~[[the]]~~ one of said environments which is associated with ~~environment of~~ said user.

68. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said extranet provides a user premises e-mail facility, and automatically raises connection in a pre-programmed fashion to said connection gateway and transfers user e-mail to said connection gateway.

69. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said Internet browser runs on an Internet access device which includes a smartcard reader and associated user smartcard which provides authentication details and a URL corresponding to said environment.

70. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 69, wherein said smartcard also facilitates global access to the Internet for access of said extranet, and is adapted for optionally additionally tracking ~~tracks~~ connections for expenses.

71. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 69, wherein the Internet access device is a computer, WebPhone, Portable digital assistant, or mobile phone with web browsing capability.

72. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the connection gateway detects a fax and stores the fax.

73. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the connection gateway is in a tamper proof enclosure, and operates without main power.

74. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the connection gateway is tamper proof, and triggers an alarm and relays the alarm to the extranet in case of attempted tampering.

75. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 61, wherein the connection gateway acts as a hub and Internet connection mechanism for said interconnected ~~connected~~ devices including information appliances ~~and said devices located in said environment~~.

76. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, further comprising a control terminal interconnected to said connection gateway.

77. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal is equipped with biosensor, for access authentication of a local user in said environment to said connection gateway.

78. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal is connected to said connection gateway in a wireless manner.

79. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 78, wherein the control terminal is powered by rechargeable batteries, allowing the control terminal mobility within the range of wireless transmitters attached to said environment.

80. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal is of reduced handheld size, so that it can operate as a universal premises remote control.

81. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal includes a digital camera, microphone and speaker, and video conferencing software, thus allowing the control terminal to be used as a videophone, through a standard browser interface.

82. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal includes a personal computer (PC) equipped with a user premises network connection, wherein said PC runs a browser accessing a URL corresponding to said connection gateway.

83. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein the control terminal is provided by a set top box connected to a television and running a web browser.

84. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 76, wherein said control terminal is equipped with a smartcard reader for e-commerce transactions over said extranet.

85. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 75, wherein at least one of said devices comprises a digital security camera embodying an image capture and compression method and an interconnection to said connection gateway.

86. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 85, wherein said camera includes motion detection and image significance algorithms which run in said camera, and a filter [[input]] so that only detected motion input is compressed and sent through said connection gateway to said extranet.

87. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said connection gateway provides support for at least one of the HomePnP, Bluetooth, HomeRF, Hiperlan [[or]] and HAVi standard for network communication and appliance control.

88. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said connection gateways form nodes of a distributed computing environment that may be allocated by said extranet on a demand basis.

89. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, ~~[[for]]~~ the system providing information access across at least two networks, wherein:
said extranet is a first network having a first network access controller; ~~[[and]]~~
said environment is a second network having a second network access controller;
said system further comprises ~~comprising~~ a user access browser located on said first network for locating and examining information on said first and second networks by means of network address locators; and
~~wherein~~ when a predetermined location on said first network is accessed, said first network access controller initiates an establishment of a network connection to said second network access controller so as to provide for a temporary interconnection of said first network to said second network, said system thereby providing a seamless access to information stored on said second network from said user access browser.

90. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 89, wherein said network address locators comprise Universal Resource Locators.

91. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59 for monitoring an environment, said system further comprising:
storage means forming part of said extranet; and
a device activating a security condition upon the occurrence of a predetermined event;
wherein, upon the occurrence of said predetermined event, said device notifies said connection gateway and transfers event information on said predetermined event to said connection gateway and said connection gateway establishes an interconnection with said communications server and transfers said event information via said communications server to said storage means for later interrogation by a user of said system and initiates predetermined alert notification actions.

92. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 91, wherein said device includes alert conditions which are forwarded to said connection gateway, wherein it is qualified with a pre-programmed enable, and if the result is TRUE, an event is generated, whereupon said connection gateway establishes a connection with ~~one of~~ said communications server ~~servers~~.

93. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92 wherein said device is a security sensor device, said system is a security system, said event is a security alarm event, and said data is surveillance data or security alert data.

94. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 93, wherein surveillance data related to said alarm event is uploaded to said extranet for secure storage accessible upon interrogation by a user.

95. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein photos of authorized occupants of said environment are accessible from said extranet and are accessed upon said alarm event and cross referenced with said surveillance data to ascertain whether a true alarm condition has been raised.

96. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92 wherein the connection gateway incorporates a user programmed phone call answer strategy, including delayed answer, and upon answering said phone call, optionally detects a voice call, in which case it records a compressed version of the voice call for later retrieval by the user, thus operating in answering machine mode.

97. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 96, wherein upon answering an incoming call, the connection gateway raise a connection to a communications server, and sends an indication to the user of said security system of the receipt of a recorded message.

98. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said connection gateway sends a recorded compressed voice messages to a communications server for storage on said extranet for forwarding to a user of said environment.

99. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein:
said environment is a home environment; and
the connection gateway provides an indication of messages received on a HTML page accessible by a user of said home environment.

100. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said connection gateway is programmable to allow different response mechanisms to differing classes of alert event.

101. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said connection gateway contains connection details for preferred and secondary communications ~~communication~~ servers on said extranet, so that if a first communications ~~communication~~ server does not respond, other communications ~~communication~~ servers may be contacted until successful connection is achieved.

102. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein user data storage on said extranet for storing event data associated with said environment is allocated virtually.

103. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said user data storage on said extranet is allocated redundantly, ensuring integrity of stored surveillance data.

104. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said extranet includes a user contact database which includes preferred contact methods, allowing automatic contact mechanisms to be associated with alarm condition, including use of e-mail, pager, computer generated voice message through telephone, requesting response, or after a specified timeout has elapsed, security action.

105. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, further comprising an external access control mechanism to said environment.

106. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, further comprising a reader for an RF tag embodied in keyfob or other device that is used for user authentication.

107. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 92, further comprising a smartcard reader that is used for user authentication.

108. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 107, wherein a smartcard includes a biosensor attached to a substrate of the smartcard and interconnected with a circuit embedded in the smartcard to authenticate the user before the smartcard will operate.

109. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, where said environment is a home environment.

110. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, where said environment is a commercial environment.

111. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, where said environment is an industrial environment.

112. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the at least one service includes a security monitoring service.

113. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the at least one service includes a video surveillance service.

114. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the at least one service includes an automation and control service.

115. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the at least one service includes a utility metering service.

116. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the at least one service includes an energy management service.

117. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 59, where the a least one service implements monitoring or control of a plurality of devices connected to at least one network interconnected with connection gateway.

118. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, where the Internet browser is on a mobile phone.

119. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the Internet browser runs on an Internet access device which includes a smartcard reader and associated user smartcard which provides authentication to access said predetermined address to create a connection to said environment.

120. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 91, wherein the connection gateway is embodied in a security camera.

Claims 121 to 122. (Canceled).

123. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein the environment is a network separate from the extranet and the connection gateway serves as an entrance from the environment to the extranet.